Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

August 19, 1970

Director, FBI

44-38861-5894

REC 55

GEORGE MC MILLAN
COFFIN POINT
FROGMORE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29920
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING
JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED ASSASSIN OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Enclosed is one copy each of a self-explanatory letter received from captioned individual dated August 14, 1970, and my reply to him.

It is noted that McMillan is a free-lance writer who appeared in the office of Mr. Thomas E. Bishop, Assistant Director of the FBI Crime Records Division, on June 4, 1968. He requested information concerning James Earl Ray for a book he was writing about the latter, and he was informed that no assistance could be given him since investigation of Ray was continuing.

Our files also disclose that McMillan was the author of an article entitled "The Birmingham Church Bombing," which appeared in "The Saturday Evening Post" issue of June 6, 1964, and that he also authored another article, "Racial Violence and Law Enforcement," which was published in pamphlet form by the Southern Regional Council, which has allegedly been affiliated with the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, an organization cited as subversive by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (now known as the House Committee on Internal Security). On several occasions during the past few years, McMillan has contacted several FBI Field Offices for information in connection with articles he was writing concerning civil rights matters. No cooperation has been extended to him by the FBI in the past.

Enclosures (2)

1 - Mr. Sullivan (detached)
1 - Mr. Bishop (detached)
1 - Mr. Bresen (attention: W.L. Martindale - route through for review) (detached)
1 - M. A. Jones (detached)

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo, dated 8-18-70, captioned as above.

JHC:cl/rog

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

August 19, 1970

REC-55

44-38841-5894

Mr. George McMillan
Coffin Point
Frogmore, South Carolina 29920

Dear Mr. McMillan:

I have received your letter of August 14, 1970, requesting information for a book you are writing about James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

While, as you noted in your letter, Ray has nearly exhausted all of the appeal remedies available to him under state law, Process for violation of Federal civil rights laws is still outstanding against Ray. In view of this and since the release of information in such matters is a determination within the province of the Department of Justice, I am referring your request to Mr. Jerris Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice.

AUG 19 1970
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Mr. Jerris Leonard, AAG, Civil Rights Division, DJ
1 - Mr. Sullivan (detached)
1 - Mr. Bishop - (detached)
1 - Mr. Rosen (detached)
1 - M. A. Jones (detached)

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo dated 8/18/70, captioned "George McMillan, Coffin Point, Frogmore, South Carolina, Request for Information Concerning James Earl Ray, Convicted Assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King."

JHC:mjl (8)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

GEORGE McMILLAN

August 14, 1970

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing a biography of James Earl Ray for Little, Brown and Company--the shape and approach of my book are known to Mr. Tom Bishop, your assistant.

I write you to ask whether the time has not perhaps arrived when you can release more information about Ray? He seems to be about through with his procedures for appeal. The last one may be his post-conviction hearing which is to be held in Memphis on September 2, 1970.

If this appeal is turned down, would it be appropriate for me to submit a list of questions to you which I need answered to prepare a useful biography of Ray?

Sincerely,

George McMillan

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

REC 55

EXP. PROC.

2 AUG 17 1970

CORRESPONDENCE

COFFIN POINT • FROGMORE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29920 • (803)838-2412